

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND MEDICAL CARE AND AID AND  
12 ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES FOR HONEY SUE NEWBY AND THE OTHER LEVEL  
13 THREE SPINA BIFIDA CHILDREN OF PARENTS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM  
14 AND WHO ARE TOTALLY DISABLED.

15  
16 WHEREAS, the federal department of veterans affairs  
17 acknowledges that one thousand two hundred children of Vietnam  
18 war veterans have some degree of disability resulting from  
19 their birth parents' exposure to agent orange during military  
20 service in the Vietnam war; and

21 WHEREAS, approximately two hundred of these children of  
22 war veterans are designated as level three spina bifida  
23 children, who are considered to be totally disabled; and

24 WHEREAS, these children, designated as totally disabled as  
25 a result of their birth parents' exposure to agent orange

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1 during military service in Vietnam, are in a situation that is  
2 indistinguishable from that of any one hundred percent service-  
3 connected disabled veteran who is totally disabled as the  
4 result of military service; and

5 WHEREAS, these two hundred level three spina bifida  
6 children of Vietnam war veterans are not treated equally with  
7 the disabled military veterans as regards compensatory medical  
8 care and aid and attendant care; and

9 WHEREAS, the financial cost for families of these children  
10 can be crippling, and many proud American military veterans and  
11 their families must depend on welfare or charity to provide the  
12 vital medical care and attendant care their children need; and

13 WHEREAS, at least one of these children, Honey Sue Newby,  
14 whose birth father served three tours as a marine infantryman  
15 in Vietnam, resides in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, the legislature seeks to honor and encourage fair  
17 treatment of all persons who have made personal sacrifices in  
18 the military defense of our nation;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it urge the United States congress to  
21 provide full medical care and attendant care to Honey Sue Newby  
22 and the other level three spina bifida children who are totally  
23 disabled as a result of their birth parents' military service  
24 in Vietnam; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional

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1 delegation be requested to work vigorously for adequate funding  
2 to provide full medical care and aid and attendant care to all  
3 level three spina bifida children who are totally disabled  
4 because of the effects of agent orange used in Vietnam; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to each member of the congressional delegation, the  
7 chief clerks of the United States house of representatives and  
8 the United States senate and the United States department of  
9 veterans affairs.